



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

Office file
9/13/54

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Immediate Release SEPTEMBER 10, 1954

McKAY APPROVES EXPANDED FISHERY RESEARCH PROGRAM

Approval of a greatly expanded research program designed to strengthen the American commercial fishing industry was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay.

The research program will be carried out by the Fish and Wildlife Service under the terms of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Bill (Public Law 466, 83rd Congress.) This legislation provides that ~~an amount~~ equal to 30 percent of duties collected under the customs laws on fishery products be transferred annually for three years from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior. The basic purpose of the legislation is to "promote the free flow of domestically produced fishery products in commerce". Expenditures for any one year may not exceed \$3,000,000.

Projects initially approved by Secretary McKay call for the expenditure of approximately \$1,800,000. The balance of the allocation will await the consideration of an advisory committee which will be appointed in the near future. This committee will comprise representatives of all segments of the fishing industry and will be invited to propose and review research projects and to recommend priorities for activities by types and areas.

The \$3,000,000 research fund allocated under the Saltonstall-Kennedy bill supplements \$3,593,000 appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Service to carry on authorized research programs. These programs include \$2,489,000 for fish and fisheries and \$1,108,000 for exploration and utilization of fish and fish products. Included in the first of these programs is the extensive work now being carried on by the Service on the Great Lakes sea lamprey and the Florida red tide scourge. In addition, \$50,000 has been appropriated for research on escapement of fish in connection with the construction of multiple purpose dams.

The majority of the projects approved today are recognized by the industry as requiring immediate attention. Secretary McKay pointed out that in most instances they parallel programs either under way or which have been postponed previously because of the lack of funds.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is authorized to conduct an expanded fishery educational service, as well as technological, biological, and related research programs. The transferred funds will also be available for the "purchase or other acquisition, construction, equipment, operation, and maintenance of vessels or other facilities necessary for conducting the required research".

On the Atlantic coast, \$706,500 has been allocated for research on the North Atlantic trawl fishes, New England oysters, and Mid-Atlantic oysters; for exploratory investigations on the Maine sardine, and in the North Atlantic; for the collection of commercial fishery statistics at Coral Gables, Fla., Beaufort, N. C., Weems, Va., and Gloucester, Mass.; for fishery education and market development work at College Park, Md., Charleston, W. Va., and Boston, Mass.; and for preliminary surveys and engineering work for reconstruction, or construction, of Service laboratories at Woods Hole, Mass., and Boston.

On the Gulf coast, \$201,000 has been programmed for research on the shrimp, red tide, and oysters; for the collection of commercial fishery statistics in New Orleans, La.; for fishery education and market development work at Fort Worth, Texas, Atlanta, Ga., and New Orleans; and for preliminary surveys and engineering for a laboratory at Pascagoula, Miss.

A combined project on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts for fishery education and market development work on Florida fish and shellfish, and for research on processing oysters has been allocated \$54,000.

On the Pacific coast, \$427,500 has been earmarked for research on California sardines, anchovy, and mackerel; for high seas offshore fishery investigations on albacore tuna of particular interest to the States of Washington, Oregon, and California; for the collection of fishery statistics at Seattle, Wash., and San Pedro, Calif.; for fishery education and market development work at Seattle, San Pedro, and Ketchikan, Alaska; and for preliminary surveys and engineering work on the reconstruction of the fishery laboratory in Seattle.

In the Middle West, \$21,000 will be spent in collecting fishery statistics and in conducting fishery education and market development activities.

The fisheries of all parts of the country will benefit from \$421,500 set aside for the collection of special commercial fishery statistics, commercial fishery economic studies, and fishery education and market development studies.

The allocations for the initial step in the program follow:

ATLANTIC COAST

Research

North Atlantic trawl fishes.....	\$279,000
New England oysters.....	25,000
Mid Atlantic oysters.....	25,000

Exploratory

Maine sardine explorations.....	76,000
North Atlantic explorations.....	160,000

Commercial fishery statistics

Coral Gables, Florida.....	19,000
Beaufort, North Carolina.....	15,000
Weems, Virginia.....	4,000
Gloucester, Massachusetts.....	5,000

Fishery education and market development

College Park, Md., Charleston, W. Va., and Boston..	75,000
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Preliminary surveys and engineering

Woods Hole.....	21,000
Boston.....	2,500
	<u>706,500</u>

GULF COAST

Research

Shrimp.....	80,000
Red tide.....	20,000
Oysters.....	25,000

Commercial fishery statistics

New Orleans.....	50,000
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Fishery education and market development

Ft. Worth, Texas.....	9,000
Atlanta and New Orleans.....	15,000

Preliminary surveys and engineering

Pascagoula.....	2,000
	<u>201,000</u>

ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTS

Fishery education and market development for Florida fish and shellfish.....	\$14,000
Research - processing oysters.....	<u>40,000</u>
	54,000

PACIFIC COAST

Research

Sardines, anchovy, mackerel.....	125,000
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Investigations

Albacore tuna - offshore, Washington, Oregon and California.....	234,000
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Commercial fishery statistics

Seattle.....	3,000
San Pedro.....	3,000

Fishery education and market development

Seattle and San Pedro.....	35,000
Ketchikan, Alaska.....	10,000

Preliminary surveys and engineering

Seattle.....	<u>17,500</u>
	427,500

MIDDLE WEST

Commercial fisheries statistics.....	13,000
Fishery education and market development.....	<u>8,000</u>
	21,000

Allocation of remaining funds, the use of which is for the general benefit of fisheries in all areas:

Commercial fishery statistics.....	53,000
Commercial fishery economics studies.....	143,000
Fishery education and market development.....	134,000
Administrative costs.....	<u>91,500</u>
	421,500

Grand total of allocated funds.....	\$1,831,500
Remaining funds to be allocated in current year.....	<u>1,168,500</u>
Total allocation.....	\$3,000,000

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